

Mayor Amy Viering called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 21, 2011. Roll Call. Present: Aldermen Barry Cox, Retha Elston, Skip Lee, and Joe Martin. Absent: Alderman Linda Marley and Lou Sotelo.

Also present were City Attorney Ron Coplan, City Manager Scott Shumard, Interim Fire Chief Gary Cook, Police Chief Ron Potthoff, Police Lt. Tim Morgan, Director of Financial Services Cindy Von Holten and City Clerk Marie Rombouts.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

LaVonne Finkle, 609 Avenue C, stated she had written a letter to the Council and left pictures of the damage to her yard from the garbage hauler jumping the curb. The same problem is happening at the home of her daughter and son-in-law's property. They have sent the same information to Allied Waste. She has suggested that it would be business-wise to do street side collection.

Alderman Cox made a motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda, as follows:

- A) 1) City Council Minutes of March 7, 2011
- 2) Council Study Session minutes of February 28, 2011
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$391,727.98
- C) Refer to Plan Commission a Petition from New Life Lutheran Church to annex certain property located on West Lynn Boulevard
- D) Petition from CGH Medical Center to stencil a graphic on sidewalk corners around CGH Medical Center and the Sterling-Rock Falls Clinic

The motion was seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Lee made a motion to pass the proclamation declaring April 2011 as National Community College Month and Sauk Valley Community College Month in Sterling; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Lou Sotelo entered the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Alderman Elston made a motion to pass **Resolution No. 2011-03-04 opposing certain changes to the Illinois Tax Increment Allocation Redevelopment Act;** seconded by Alderman Martin. Manager Shumard stated that the State of Illinois is working on several bills that could reduce benefits from the TIF Districts. Sterling Steel, County Market, and Kohl's are all here because of their TIF Districts. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Lee made a motion to approve the petition from the YMCA to close the westbound lanes of Lynn Boulevard from Sixth Avenue to West LeFevre between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon on Saturday, April 30, 2011 and pass **Resolution No. R2011-03-05, closing Route 40 intermittently for bike and running traffic as part of a Triathlon**; seconded by Alderman Sotelo. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to pass **Resolution No. R2011-03-06 to Close Illinois Route 2 for the grand opening/ribbon cutting at the Lincoln-Manahan Home on Monday, July 18, 2011, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.**; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin made a motion to pass **Resolution No. R2011-03-07 to close Fourth Street for performances at the Grandon Civic Center during the Memorial Day Services and Municipal Concerts**; seconded by Alderman Sotelo. Mayor Viering encouraged everyone to enjoy our municipal band concerts during the summer. The first concert will be June 8. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Cox made a motion to award the low bid for all concrete used in the 2011 Sidewalk/Curb Program to Rock River Ready Mix, Inc.; seconded by Alderman Martin. Mayor Viering recognized the street crews for the great work they do on our curbs. Manager Shumard reported that concrete prices are down. Third Street will be less expensive to reconstruct this summer because of the concrete base. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Manager Shumard reminded everyone of a retirement party for Arlyn Oetting on Saturday, April 2 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. The YMCA triathlon is expected to bring 100 people to town. May 13 and 14 is Clean and Green Days and we hope to work on the lot across the street from the Manahan home.

Manager Shumard also reported on the article in the weekend paper about FOIA compliance. Manager Shumard assured the Council that City staff provides the information. Sometimes staff needs clarification on the request. Shumard believes it is good police work for them follow up on interest in a hit and run accident. The clerks' organization recommends that everyone fill out a FOIA request and the State's Attorney General has a sample form on their website. Mayor Viering knows that staff works hard on getting information out when requested.

Alderman Elston thanked the Police Department for the year-end report.

Alderman Lee asked when yard waste pick up will resume. Manager Shumard reported yard waste collection resumed last week, March 14.

Alderman Lee appreciates receiving the newsletter from the Sauk Valley Landlords Association but noticed they reported the City is spending \$4.3 million on office space renovation. Alderman Lee asked Manager Shumard to outline the other aspects of the remodeling. Manager Shumard reported major items will include asbestos removal, adding insulation, updating plumbing, electrical, and heating/cooling, as well as making the building ADA compatible.

With no further business to discuss, Alderman Martin made a motion to adjourn to a study session; seconded by Alderman Elston. The regular meeting convened at 6:47 p.m. Voting: Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Manager Shumard began discussions on the remaining funds for the 2011-2012 Budget.

The Band Commission budget missed projections, primarily because of the Washington DC trip. Revenues were short and expenses were over.

Coliseum bidding should take place in August, with construction taking place in the following 14 to 16 months.

The fund balance for Health Insurance is at 25%. The City's goal is 33%.

The Library has requested a loan of \$150,000. The Library plans to replace carpet, windows, and light fixtures, as well as add motion sensors on the lights. The Library is working on a consortium with Dixon Public Library, Rock Falls Public Library, Sterling Schools, and the Rock Falls elementary schools.

The Sewer Fund has \$400,000 awaiting the future Wastewater Treatment Plant. The proposed increase of \$.75 on the sewer base rate is to avoid major increases when the plant is necessary. A new plant could cost over \$2 million and be eight to ten years out. If phosphorous treatment is mandated, the need for a new plant could be sooner.

Manager Shumard reported that he spoke with Paul Osborne, Chairman of the Sterling Civic Center Authority board. Osborne stated the money left in the fund should have been spent on maintenance; therefore, funds left in the fund could be spent on renovations. The statute that provided for this board has been eliminated.

NWSW redevelopment is moving along. The cell tower lease has been transferred to the City. Rock River TIF funds may be used to help offset costs of Plant 1 clean-up.

Final General Fund modifications are necessary because of the following issues:

- Union contracts
- Insurance costs

- Library loan of \$150,000 with pay back over 25 years
- TIF transfers
- FY 2011-12 operating deficit reduced from \$217,000 to \$160,000
- One-time costs, such as the detention pond
- State income tax payments - State has paid five payments in the last three months, will this continue?

Manager Shumard outlined the budget timeline. A budget hearing will be set at the April 4 meeting. A notice of the budget hearing will be in the paper on April 5 and the budget will be on display by April 6. Final budget figures will be reviewed at the April 4 meeting.

With no further business, meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Marie Rombouts  
City Clerk